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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/726,432

12/03/2003

Kemal Guler

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EXAMINER

DUNHAM, JASON B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/726,432	Applicant(s) GULER ET AL.	
	Examiner Jason B. Dunham	Art Unit 3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5,8-11,13,15-17,20 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5,8-11,13,15-17,20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendments to claims 3,8,13, and 20 filed in the reply dated June 8, 2007 are noted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 3-5,8-11,13,15-17 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guler (US 2002/0174052 A1).

Referring to claim 3. Guler discloses a method comprising:

- Providing information regarding an online auction to a computer system (abstract); and
- Predicting, by a software program executing on the computer system, an auction outcome for each of a plurality of potential feedback rules for the online auction type (figure 4 and paragraph 63);
- Allowing an auction end-user to select a feedback rule to implement from the plurality of potential feedback rules based on the predicted auction outcomes (paragraph 38); and

Art Unit: 3625

- Implementing a single auction using the feedback rule selected by the end-user (paragraph 68).

Referring to claim 4. Guler further discloses a method wherein predicting comprises modeling an outcome for each of the plurality of potential feedback rules (figure 4 and paragraph 63).

Referring to claim 5. Guler further discloses a method wherein modeling the outcome for each of the plurality of potential feedback rules comprises calculating a statistical distribution of possible outcomes for each of the plurality of potential feedback rules (paragraph 38).

Referring to claims 8-9. Claims 8-9 are rejected under the same rationale set forth.

Referring to claim 10. Guler further discloses a system wherein the processor predicts a final outcome for each of the plurality of feedback rules (figure 4 and paragraph 63).

Referring to claims 11,13,15-17 and 20. Claims 15-17 and 20 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above.

Referring to claim 21. Guler further discloses method wherein the predicting further comprises:

- Ranking, by the software program, each of the plurality of potential feedback rules based on the predicted outcomes (figure 10 and paragraph 66); and
- Providing the ranking to the auction end user (paragraph 66).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 8, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Guler does not disclose selection of a feedback rule to be used within a particular bidding model. The examiner disagrees and notes paragraph 9 of Guler disclosing, "In addition, once the seller has decided to employ a specific auction format, another important decision the seller typically needs to make is to set the reserve price below which no bid will be accepted." The examiner submits that reserve price is one example of feedback rule within the selected auction format. Paragraph 16 of Guler further discloses, "The method also includes the step of predicting behavior of bidders in the auction based on the estimated unknown elements of market structure and characteristics of the auction." The examiner submits that the elements of market structure of characteristics of the auction are further example of feedback rules within a selected auction type. See also paragraphs 31-32 for optimizing feedback rules. Independent claims 8,13, and 20 and their dependent claims are rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 3625

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason B. Dunham whose telephone number is 571-272-8109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JBD
Patent Examiner
7/27/07

NAEEM HAQ
PRIMARY EXAMINER

